

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

- 1-11. (Cancelled)
12. (Currently amended) An extrudable fibre-reinforced cementitious formulation comprising
a cementitious material,
reinforcing fibres,
water;
at least one ingredient selected from the group consisting of lime, silica, density modifiers, and mixtures thereof, and
0.3-5% by weight of dry solids of cementitious material of ~~viscosity enhancing agent~~ a cellulose ether and 0.05 $[-0.5]$ to less than 0.2% by weight of dry solid of cementitious material of a sulphonated dispersion agent, wherein the quantity of dispersion agent is sufficient to increase the efficacy of the viscosity enhancing agent during extrusion of said extrudable cementitious formulation.
13. (Cancelled)
14. (Original) A cementitious formulation as claimed in claim 12 wherein dispersion agent is added in a quantity sufficient to maintain extrudability with a reduced dosage of viscosity enhancing agent as compared to a conventional dosage.
15. (Original) A cementitious formulation as claimed in claim 12 wherein dispersion agent is added in a quantity sufficient to maintain extrudability with a lower grade or lower molecular weight viscosity enhancing agent as compared to a conventional dosage.
16. (Original) A cementitious formulation as claimed in claim 12 wherein dispersion agent is added in a quantity sufficient to improve extrudability for a quantity of viscosity enhancing agent substantially equivalent to a conventional dosage.
17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently amended) A cementitious formulation as claimed in claim 12 wherein ~~the viscosity agent~~ said cellulose ether is hydroxyl alkyl cellulose, hydroxyl alkyl alkyl cellulose, carboxy alkyl cellulose or alkyl cellulose, or mixtures thereof.

19. (Original) A cementitious formulation as claimed in claim 12 wherein the viscosity enhancing agent is selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl propyl methyl cellulose, hydroxyl ethyl methyl cellulose, methyl cellulose, hydroxyl ethyl cellulose, carboxy methyl cellulose, ethyl cellulose and hydroxyl butyl methyl cellulose, or mixtures thereof.

20. (Withdrawn) A cementitious formulation as claimed in claim 12 wherein the viscosity enhancing agent is selecting from the group consisting of polyvinyl alcohols, gums include Welan gum, locust bean gum guar gum, sodium alginate, swellable alkali emulsions of acrylic co-polymers, clays or modified clays, polyethylene glycol and acrylic based polymers or mixtures thereof.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Previously Presented) A cementitious formulation as claimed in claim 12 wherein the dispersion agent is sulphonated melamine formaldehyde.

23-51. (Cancelled)

52. (New) In a method for extruding a cementitious material, the improvement comprising adding a quantity of dispersion agent sufficient to increase the efficacy of a viscosity enhancing agent contained in said cementitious material.

53. (New) A method as claimed in claim 52 wherein the viscosity enhancing agent is provided as 0.3-5% by weight of dry solids of the cementitious material and the dispersion agent is provided as 0.05-.05% by weight of dry solids of cementitious material.

54. (New) A method as claimed in claim 52 wherein the dispersion agent is added in a quantity sufficient to maintain extrudability of the cementitious material with a reduced dosage of viscosity enhancing agent as compared to a conventional dosage.

55. (New) A method as claimed in claim 52, wherein the dispersion agent is added in a quantity sufficient to maintain extrudability of the cementitious material with a lower grade or lower molecular weight viscosity enhancing agent as compared to a conventional dosage.

56. (New) A method as claimed in claim 52, wherein the dispersion agent is added in a quantity sufficient to improve extrudability for a quantity of viscosity enhancing agent substantially equivalent to a conventional dosage.

57. (New) A method as claimed in claim 52 wherein the viscosity enhancing agent is a cellulose ether.

58. (New) A method as claimed in claim 52 wherein the viscosity agent is hydroxy alkyl cellulose, hydroxy alkyl alkyl cellulose, carboxy alkyl cellulose or alkyl cellulose, or mixtures thereof.

59. (New) A method as claimed in claim 52 wherein the viscosity enhancing agent is selected from the group consisting of hydroxy propyl methyl cellulose, hydroxy ethyl methyl cellulose, methyl cellulose, hydroxy ethyl cellulose, carboxy methyl cellulose, ethyl cellulose and hydroxy butyl methyl cellulose, or mixtures thereof.

60. (New) A method as claimed in claim 52 wherein the viscosity enhancing agent is selecting from the group consisting of polyvinyl alcohols, gums include Welan gum, locust bean gum guar gum, sodium alginate, swellable alkali emulsions of acrylic co-polymers, clays or modified clays, polyethylene glycol and acrylic based polymers or mixtures thereof.

61. (New) A method as claimed in claim 52 wherein the dispersion agent is a suiphonated type dispersion agent.

62. (New) A method as claimed in claim 52 wherein the dispersion agent is suiphonated melamine formaldehyde or suiphonated naphthalene formaldehyde.

63. (New) A method as claimed in claim 52 wherein the viscosity enhancing agent and dispersion agent are combined prior to treating the cementitious material.

64. (New) A method as claimed in claim 52 wherein the viscosity enhancing agent and dispersion agent are combined insitu with the cementitious material.

65. (New) A method of treating a cementitious material for extrusion, said method comprising adding to the cementitious material a viscosity enhancing agent, and a dispersion agent in a quantity sufficient to increase the efficacy of the viscosity enhancing agent during said extrusion.

66. (New) A method as claimed in claim 65 comprising 0.3-5% by weight of dry solids of viscosity enhancing agent and 0.05-0.5% by weight of dry solids of dispersion agent.

67. (New) A method as claimed in claim 65 wherein dispersion agent is added in a quantity sufficient to maintain extrudability with a reduced dosage of viscosity enhancing agent as compared to a conventional dosage.

68. (New) A method as claimed in claim 65 wherein dispersion agent is added in a quantity sufficient to maintain extrudability with a lower grade or lower molecular weight viscosity enhancing agent as compared to a conventional dosage.

69. (New) A method as claimed in claim 65 wherein dispersion agent is added in a quantity sufficient to improve extrudability for the given quantity of viscosity enhancing agent substantially equivalent to a conventional dosage.

70. (New) A method as claimed in claim 65 wherein the viscosity enhancing agent is a cellulose ether.

71. (New) A method as claimed in claim 65 wherein the viscosity agent is hydroxy alkyl cellulose, hydroxy alkyl methyl cellulose, carboxy alkyl cellulose or methyl cellulose, or mixtures thereof.

72. (New) A method as claimed in claim 65 wherein the viscosity enhancing agent is selected from the group consisting of hydroxy propyl methyl cellulose, hydroxy ethyl methyl cellulose, methyl cellulose, hydroxy ethyl cellulose, carboxy methyl cellulose, ethyl cellulose and hydroxy butyl methyl cellulose, or mixtures thereof.

73. (New) A method as claimed in claim 65 wherein the viscosity enhancing agent is selected from the group consisting of polyvinyl alcohols, gums include Welan gum, locust bean gum, guar gum, sodium alginate, swellable alkali emulsions of acrylic co-polymers, clays or modified clays, polyethylene glycol and acrylic based polymers or mixtures thereof.

74. (New) A method as claimed in claim 65 wherein the dispersion agent is a sulphonated type dispersion agent.

75. (New) A method as claimed in claim 65 wherein the dispersion agent is sulphonated melamine formaldehyde or sulphonated naphthalene formaldehyde.

76. (New) A method of forming a low density cementitious article comprising adding a cementitious material, density modifying additive, viscosity enhancing agent and dispersion agent to water, extruding the resultant paste and curing the extruded article wherein the dispersion agent is added in a quantity sufficient to increase the efficacy of the viscosity enhancing agent.

77. (New) A method as claimed in claim 76 wherein prior to extrusion, lime, silica and/or fibre reinforcement may be added to the cementitious material.

78. (New) A method as claimed in claim 76 wherein the density of the cured article is not greater than 1.2 grams per cm³.